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Report of the Secretary-General on South Sudan

I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to paragraph 19 of Security Council resolution 1996 of 8 July 2011, by which the Council established the United Nations Mission in the Republic of South Sudan (UNMISS) for an initial period of one year with the intention to renew its mandate for further periods as may be required. Also in paragraph 19, the Council requested me to report to it on the expected timeline of the deployment of all Mission components, to present benchmarks for the Mission and to keep it informed of progress every four months. The present report provides an update on the establishment of all Mission components and on the Mission's activities, as well as an assessment of the overall situation in the country since my second progress report (S/2012/140) of 7 March 2012. The benchmarks for UNMISS are described in the annex to the present report. The report also contains recommendations regarding the renewal of the Mission's mandate, which expires on 8 July 2012.

II. Political developments

2. During the reporting period, the deteriorating relationship with the Sudan, an outbreak of hostilities on the South Sudan-Sudan border, and the economic impact of the shutdown of oil production dominated political developments and hampered progress in the Government's state-building and reform agenda. Nevertheless, important steps forward were taken. The convening of the National Liberation Council of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) from 26 to 29 March 2012, which resolved to reform and restructure the ruling party, as well as the launching of a civilian disarmament process and a parallel peace process in Jonglei State, and a peace conference between the Acholi and Madi in Eastern Equatoria State, are cases in point. In addition, the Government commenced preparations for a three-states peace conference between Unity, Lakes and Warrap States. The Government also appointed 90 Ambassadors, and the country joined the World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF), and is on track towards membership of the East African Community (EAC).

Establishment of national institutions

3. Nearly five months after the establishment of the National Constitutional Review Commission, the Commission has yet to meet formally because a quorum

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had not been reached. On 28 May, the President appointed additional Commissioners to the Commission, including representatives of civil society, women and religious groups and the SPLM, giving room also for additional participants from unrepresented communities, bringing the total number of civil society representatives to 6 out of a total of 55. The National Constitutional Review Commission is developing a workplan and budget that includes consultations and public hearings on key constitutional issues and staffing requirements, which it expects to share with the UNMISS-led international partners' coordination forum for their support. With the delay in the process, however, the constitutional review risks being compressed into a time frame that could limit adequate inclusivity and consultations.

4. In April, the National Legislative Assembly passed the National Elections Bill and the Petroleum Bill, which await Presidential signature. The Petroleum Revenue Management Bill was also passed by the National Legislative Assembly and is with the Council of States. The Media Bill was submitted to the National Legislative Assembly, while the Non-Governmental Organization Bill has yet to be cleared by the Council of Ministers. The Council of Ministers passed the AIDS Commission Bill, the Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorist Financial Bill, the Legal Training Institute Bill and the Taxation Bill 2012.

Political party dynamics

5. The Sudan-South Sudan border crisis has had a politically unifying effect throughout South Sudan. The Government is fully supported in its policies vis-à-vis relations with the Sudan by virtually all political parties.

6. Late in March, as part of its restructuring and reform process, the SPLM convened its second-highest political organ, the National Liberation Council, for the first time since 2008. In his opening speech, President Salva Kiir Mayardit, as Chairman of the SPLM, declared the party's commitment to reform and its intention to strengthen political mobilization of members at the grass-roots level, stressing the role of youth and women. The Council decided to establish seven committees to review the SPLM manifesto and internal rules and to readmit members who had left the party during the April 2010 elections. The National Liberation Council also endorsed the austerity measures of the Government of the Republic of South Sudan and called upon the Government to defend the territorial integrity of South Sudan.

7. Other political parties are in the process of revising their constitutions and mobilizing membership in order to meet the requirements to register as national political parties according to the Political Parties Act.

Anti-corruption measures

8. The deadline for senior holders of public office to declare their income, assets and liabilities, and confirm abstention from involvement in private businesses, expired on 31 March. The Anti-Corruption Commission indicated that it has prepared a report for the President for further action, including the dismissal of officials who failed to comply with the decree. Through investigations the Commission has also been able to retrieve misappropriated funds of the order of $60 million, which will be returned to Government coffers.

9. Speaking at the opening of the second session of Parliament early in June, President Salva Kiir Mayardit said that he had sent letters to Government officials asking them to return misappropriated money. Parliament subsequently resolved to suspend all the officials to whom the letter was sent, while civil society organizations urged that the cases be handed over to the Anti-Corruption Commission and the Ministry of Justice for investigation and prosecution. The Executive and the Legislature are now considering the way forward.

10. The National Audit Bill and the South Sudan Anti-Corruption Bill both remain under review by the Ministry of Justice. Supported by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the National Audit Chamber reviewed the draft audit law, taking into consideration issues of the independence of the chamber. Similarly, the South Sudan Anti-Corruption Commission drafted a new law with provisions incorporating prosecutorial powers for the Commission.

III. Economic situation

11. In the context of the 98 per cent loss in revenues resulting from the oil shutdown, in February the Government approved an austerity budget, which covered the remainder of the financial year to June 2012. This austerity budget aimed to reduce monthly government expenditure from 880 million South Sudanese pounds in January to 650 million South Sudanese pounds per month over the five-month period, representing a 27 per cent reduction in expenditure from the original 2011/2012 budget. The austerity measures included a 50 per cent cut in operating and capital costs and a 10 per cent cut in state transfers, while maintaining all salaries and allowances. The Government also launched a campaign to raise non-oil revenues through tightening the collection of customs, taxes and visa fees, resulting in an increase in monthly revenue by 85 per cent between December 2011 and April 2012. However, despite these measures, spending continued at previous or higher rates throughout subsequent months, owing partly to mobilization of the SPLA in border areas.

12. In preparing for the upcoming 2012/13 fiscal year budget that will commence in July, the Government Austerity Committee prepared a new series of recommendations, which were endorsed by the Council of Ministers, and will be presented to the National Legislative Assembly in June 2012. These measures aim to reduce the 2012/13 fiscal year budget to 6.4 billion South Sudanese pounds, or a monthly expenditure of 530 million South Sudanese pounds per month, a further monthly reduction of nearly 20 per cent from the previous austerity period, and a reduction of 40 per cent from the original 2011/12 fiscal year budget. This budget includes significant cuts to capital and operational costs, and includes cutting of some allowances.

13. The Government has indicated that, even with these reduced expenditure levels, there remains a gap between planned expenditure and current resources and expected revenue. The Government has indicated that, in addition to continued negotiations with the Republic of the Sudan on oil transit fees, it will seek to address this fiscal gap through continuing to expand non-oil revenue collection, loans (including domestic commercial loans, international concessional loans, and should it be necessary, international commercial loans), and oil and other national resource concessions. The President and senior government officials have visited

partner countries to discuss economic cooperation and other bilateral matters. An International Conference to promote private investment in South Sudan was held in Juba from 20 to 22 March.

14. With limited foreign currency available in the market, the South Sudanese pound, officially fixed at 2.95 to the United States dollar, has been depreciating and is being traded at about 5.0 South Sudanese pounds to the United States dollar on the parallel market. The lack of foreign currency has also led to shortages of basic commodities, including fuel, which is imported from outside the country. Prices of basic foodstuffs and commodities are increasing throughout the country, including by as much as 100-200 per cent in border areas over the past months.

IV. Regional aspects

South Sudan-Sudan relations

15. Negotiations between South Sudan and the Sudan, under the auspices of the African Union High-level Implementation Panel led by Chairman Thabo Mbeki, continued in Addis Ababa on the outstanding issues between the countries, including financial arrangements regarding oil, nationality and citizenship and border demarcation. On 12 March, South Sudanese and Sudanese negotiation teams initialled two agreements, on Nationality and on Border Demarcation. The teams agreed to continue talks based on the principle of mutual viability and security and plans were made to hold a summit between Presidents Salva Kiir Mayardit and Omar Hasan al Bashir on 3 April in Juba to ratify the previously initialled agreements and to agree on approaches towards resolving outstanding issues.

16. However, the relationship between South Sudan and the Sudan took a turn for the worse in late March with a substantial rise in violence along the border accompanied by belligerent rhetoric. The parties accused each other, in particular, of using proxies in order to destabilize the other.

17. The conflict along the border escalated in April when, accusing the Sudanese Armed Forces of using it as a launching pad for attacks on South Sudan, the SPLA captured and occupied oil-rich Heglig, known as Panthou by South Sudanese, on 10 April, effectively shutting down more than 50 per cent of the oil production of the Sudan. South Sudan announced that it would retain its position until guarantees had been made that Heglig would not be used to launch further attacks on its territory. However, on 20 April, in response to international pressure, including a Security Council Presidential Statement calling on both parties to cease hostilities and on the Government of the Republic of South Sudan to withdraw its forces from Heglig, the Government of the Republic of South Sudan announced the unconditional withdrawal of the SPLA from Heglig. In the light of continued fighting on the border and aerial bombardments, the African Union Peace and Security Council adopted a road map on 24 April with implementation timelines to resolve outstanding issues. Thereafter, the Security Council endorsed the African Union Peace and Security Council road map through the adoption of Council resolution 2046 (2012) on 2 May under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations. The road map called for, among other things, a cessation of hostilities within 48 hours and activation of the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism, the Safe Demilitarized Border Zone, and the reaching of an overall settlement on all disputes within three months. The last aerial bombardment in

South Sudan that was verified and independently confirmed by UNMISS within the Mission area of responsibility took place on 5 May.

18. On 3 May, the Government of the Republic of South Sudan declared that it would fully comply with Council resolution 2046 (2012) and that it would seek to resolve its claim on Heglig through international legal mechanisms. Early in May, the Cabinet approved a new map of South Sudan, which included Heglig and other disputed territories, including some currently administered by Kenya and Uganda.

19. Following the outbreak of border hostilities and the SPLA occupation of Heglig, there were widespread demonstrations by the general populace, expressing support for the occupation of Heglig and demanding that the Sudanese Armed Forces stop bombardments, which were causing civilian casualties. Criticism was also directed at the United Nations and the African Union for demanding the withdrawal of the SPLA from Heglig. Protests were organized at UNMISS premises demanding that the Mission protect the civilian population and invoke its Chapter VII mandate to help defend South Sudan. These events revealed widespread misunderstanding of the UNMISS mandate prompting the Mission's launch of an outreach campaign throughout the country.

Foreign and diplomatic relations of the Government

20. On 7 March, the President appointed 90 Ambassadors, including 9 women, to the Diplomatic and Consular Service of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation.

21. South Sudan joined the IMF and World Bank on 18 April. Late in April, the East African Community (EAC) announced that it was expediting the verification process of South Sudan's membership application, to be discussed at the EAC Summit planned for November. In a step to integrate into the structures of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), on 5 May, South Sudan set up its Conflict Early Warning Unit as an integral part of the IGAD Conflict Early Warning and Response Network, which supports conflict resolution among pastoral communities.

Inter-Mission cooperation

22. UNMISS continued to cooperate with all Missions operating in the Sudan and South Sudan. UNMISS, the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA) and the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) cooperated to support the peaceful migration of pastoralists in the border areas of the Sudan and South Sudan. UNMISS administrative and logistical support to UNISFA included its Logistics Hub in Wau and Liaison Office in Juba. UNMISS support to other Missions also included the United Nations Peacebuilding Office in the Central African Republic (BINUCA) during the electoral process in the Central African Republic and the United Nations Support Mission in Libya mission start-up through deployment of an aircraft to Libya.

23. UNMISS participated in a Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) Focal Points meeting from 22 to 23 March, co-chaired by the African Union Special Envoy on the LRA and the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa (UNOCA) Special Representative of the Secretary-General, followed by the 24 March launch of the African Union Regional Coordination Initiative in Juba and deployment of the

Regional Task Force headquarters in Yambio. On 15 May an initial coordination meeting was held in Yambio between UNMISS, the African Union and the Regional Task Force, where the need for close coordination between forces was stressed.

V. Security situation

Border incidents

24. The security situation along the border with the Sudan deteriorated significantly during the reporting period, consuming a great deal of the attention of the Government of the Republic of South Sudan and UNMISS. In Unity State, on 26 March, an SPLA position in Tishwin was reportedly attacked by air and ground forces. The following day bombs were dropped in the vicinity of Bentiu, the state capital, and on 31 March, aerial bombardments occurred in the area of Manga and Panakuach. The Government of the Republic of South Sudan announced its retaliation by pushing the Sudanese Armed Forces from the area of Tishwin towards Heglig.

25. After extensive international engagement, both sides agreed to withdraw to their original positions, although they continued to accuse one another of starting the hostilities and involvement in activity on opposite sides of the border. The situation remained relatively calm until 10 April, when, following reports of new bombings, the SPLA advanced across the border and captured Heglig and associated oil installations. The situation seriously escalated, with intensive ground fighting between SPLA and the Sudanese Armed Forces and air attacks by the Sudanese Armed Forces in South Sudan, including bombardments in and around Bentiu on 14-15 April, resulting in several civilian casualties, and an aerial bombardment that killed seven people and damaged a United Nations county support base in Mayom County, Unity State, on 15 April. United Nations personnel were unharmed. I have strongly condemned the killing of civilians during the aerial bombardments, as did my Special Representative for South Sudan and Head of UNMISS, the High Commissioner for Human Rights and my Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict.

26. For several days following the adoption on 2 May of Security Council resolution 2046 (2012), UNMISS continued to receive reports of indiscriminate aerial bombardments and Sudanese Armed Forces attacks in Unity State. Notably, bombings were reported in Lalop on 3 May, hours before the Security Council deadline for cessation of hostilities, and UNMISS confirmed the presence of fresh craters in the area, 24 km inside South Sudan. Access to some areas, notably in Western Bahr el Ghazal, has continued to be restricted by SPLA despite repeated Government of the Republic of South Sudan commitments.

Militia groups

27. For most of March and early April, there were few reports of militia group activity in South Sudan with the exception of Upper Nile State, where rebel militia groups were reportedly mobilized under the overall command of Lt. General Gordon Kuong, leader of the South Sudan Defence Forces. Between 15 and 30 April, UNMISS confirmed four armed clashes in Upper Nile State. Most notably, on 27 April, a militia group attacked SPLA positions near Malakal. The SPLA repelled the attack, which resulted in the death of a number of militia forces and several

SPLA. Subsequently, on 6 May, UNMISS witnessed the surrender of 215 militia members and 2 commanding generals to the SPLA in Upper Nile State. Reportedly, they are being integrated into the army.

28. During the reporting period, no confirmed militia incidents took place in Unity or Jonglei States. The Government concluded negotiations with the South Sudan Democratic Movement/Army and is in the process of integrating approximately 1,800 of South Sudan Democratic Movement/Army forces with the SPLA. The negotiations resulted in the signing of an agreement in early March with Peter Kuol Chol, who succeeded the late George Athor. On 15 April, the South Sudan Liberation Army and the South Sudan Democratic Army issued a press release announcing that David Yau Yau (a Murle), who recently re-defected to Khartoum, had been appointed overall commander of the militia forces in Jonglei State. The process of integration of several hundred of Athor's forces into the SPLA continued. Former militia leader Peter Gatdet was appointed deputy commander of the civilian disarmament operation in Jonglei. The Government of the Republic of South Sudan currently maintains that all remaining militia in South Sudan are proxies of the Sudan, instructed to overrun oil installations, declare independence from South Sudan, and overthrow the Government of the Republic of South Sudan.

Inter-communal conflict

29. After the serious attacks in Jonglei from December 2011-January 2012, the current period has been comparatively calm, with a peace process making visible progress and a significant presence of security forces in relation to civilian disarmament. A small number of small-scale cattle raids have still occurred, attributed mostly to the Murle. The measures taken by the Government of the Republic of South Sudan to address inter-communal conflict and foster security in Jonglei included a civilian disarmament process, a reconciliation process led by a Peace Committee appointed by the President, and establishment of an Investigation Committee for the December 2011-January 2012 attacks.

30. The Presidential Committee for Peace, Reconciliation and Tolerance in Jonglei State, chaired by Archbishop Daniel Deng of the Episcopal Church of the Sudan, convened an All Jonglei Peace Conference from 1 to 5 May. It followed a month of community consultations and four mini-conferences with the communities, including youth and women. Conference resolutions identifying major conflict issues were signed by Paramount Chiefs in the presence of President Salva Kiir Mayardit. The mandate of the Peace Committee was extended to include monitoring of the implementation of the resolutions. Subsequently, Lou Nuer leaders and politicians of Greater Akobo held a reconciliation conference from 23 to 25 May. UNMISS continuously supported and facilitated this peace process.

31. An Investigation Committee was established by Presidential Decree on 4 March for the December 2011-January 2012 attacks in Jonglei State. Now that the Peace Conference has taken place, there is an expectation that the Investigation Committee will be sworn in and begin work. UNMISS also conducted an investigation into the attacks in Jonglei from December 2011 to February 2012, recording the deaths of 612 Murle and 276 Lou Nuer and Dinka, and prepared a report which was released on 25 June 2012. The report recommends a number of measures to the Government of the Republic of South Sudan, including fulfilment of

the Investigation Committee's mandate and strengthening the justice system to address accountability for crimes linked to inter-communal violence.

32. Late in March, Jikany and Lou Nuer reportedly engaged in armed clashes and cattle raiding in several Jonglei and Upper Nile locations along and across the Ethiopian border, resulting in several deaths, injuries and a number of stolen cattle. However, timely verification of the scale and impact of the attacks within South Sudan by UNMISS proved difficult owing to the inaccessibility of the terrain comprised of intertwined networks of shallow waterways.

33. Elsewhere in South Sudan, a three-state Conference supported by UNMISS to find solutions to resource-based conflicts, originally scheduled for March, was postponed until after the rainy season late in 2012. In the Equatorias, a church-led Acholi-Madi peace conference, held in April, to resolve tension over violence that had erupted between the two communities in October-November 2011, resolved to end hostilities and form a joint Madi-Acholi peace and reconciliation committee.

Civilian disarmament

34. The civilian disarmament process in Jonglei State was launched by President Salva Kiir Mayardit on 12 March. An additional 2,000 South Sudan Police Service and approximately 10,000 SPLA were deployed to Jonglei to undertake the disarmament process and for the protection of civilians as part of "Operation Restore Peace" under the overall command of SPLA Lt. General Kuol Diem Kuol.

35. The Government undertook an extensive sensitization campaign to encourage communities to voluntarily surrender weapons. From mid-March to early April, UNMISS assisted the Vice-President's sensitization visits to all communities. Local chiefs were asked to ensure that communities turned in their weapons peacefully and voluntarily, and communities in return called on the Government to undertake its responsibility to protect them, particularly by providing security after disarmament. At the All Jonglei Peace Conference, from 1 to 5 May, leaders from all communities recommended the continuation of disarmament. The Government of the Republic of South Sudan has described the process as having gone well, with over 10,400 weapons collected so far and has stated that security forces would remain deployed in remote areas after the disarmament process was complete in order to establish buffer zones between the communities. The plans of the Government of the Republic of South Sudan for storage and transportation of the weapons collected remain unclear.

36. From the outset, UNMISS engaged the Government to encourage making disarmament part of a comprehensive approach to peace and stability in Jonglei, underscoring a simultaneous, voluntary and peaceful disarmament, with security to be provided for those disarmed, and encouraging the SPLA to take measures to minimize the risk of violence and human rights violations. SPLA precautionary measures included dissemination of a code of conduct to its forces, deployment of legal advisers and military magistrates, and provision of additional logistical support.

37. UNMISS closely monitored the civilian disarmament process by deploying Integrated Monitoring Teams, comprised of civilian, military and police staff which have undertaken 75 missions to 98 locations across Jonglei as of 14 June. At the All Jonglei Peace Conference on 5 May, the assessment by community leaders was that

the SPLA had played a positive role in increasing security and protection, and that it had conducted itself responsibly during civilian disarmament. Nonetheless, UNMISS received reports of 63 human rights abuse cases in about one third of locations visited.

38. The majority (43) of the cases of alleged violations occurred in Pibor County, with 12 reported in Bor County, and a handful in 5 other counties. The reported cases to date include 6 killings, and 13 cases of rape or attempted rape. Such rape cases are likely to have been underreported given the reluctance of women to report such abuses, particularly when military are still present in their communities. Thirty-three incidents of torture and other forms of ill-treatment involving some 200 individuals were reported, including allegations of simulated drownings and beatings while tied to a tree. On 18 April, an SPLA Commander acknowledged that those tactics were inappropriate and that he would initiate an investigation. UNMISS has also taken up those cases with the Government of the Republic of South Sudan and the SPLA leadership both in Jonglei and in Juba, and they have conveyed their commitment to follow up on the cases. So far, the authorities have taken action in eight cases, with detentions, and one court martial, although as yet none of the cases related to torture. The Mission is following up on all the cases, encouraging accountability. In June, concerns were also raised with the Government about a series of incidents related to the 365 Battalion deployed to Pibor Town.

39. A group of Auxiliary South Sudan Police Service, estimated at 500 strong, was reported to have fired weapons in the air in Likuongole on 8/9 June, with alleged abuses as a result. UNMISS deployed teams to the towns of Likuangole and Manyabol to reassure the population and to investigate the claims. It was established that two children had been killed. The matter is being investigated by the South Sudan Police Service.

40. A number of armed youth reportedly fled to the border areas of Ethiopia and to other areas inaccessible to the forces conducting the disarmament process, allegedly to evade weapons collection. It is clear that disarmament is not a one-off event, and it will take time for civilians to surrender weapons and gain confidence in the ability of state institutions to protect them. The management of the process once these armed youth return will be a critical test for the Government of the Republic of South Sudan.

41. In Eastern Equatoria, an impromptu disarmament exercise took place in Torit County from 22 to 24 March, where residents accused SPLA soldiers of threatening civilians, forcibly removing them from their homes, indiscriminately beating men, women and children, raping one woman and one girl, and beating one man to death. In late-April the Governor issued an apology and an investigation committee was formed. UNMISS awaits the findings of the investigation.

Migration

42. Although migrations between the Sudan and South Sudan have generally been peaceful, some groups, particularly the Misseriya, have faced difficulties due to tensions between the Sudan and South Sudan along the border. Misseriya migration did not take place into Warrap or Northern Bahr el Ghazal States this year. In Warrap, local communities objected to the migration until there was a political solution enabling Ngok Dinka to return to their homes in Abyei. Rizeigat migrated from South Darfur into Northern Bahr el Ghazal, but not into Western Bahr el

Ghazal, because a migration conference was not held owing to tensions along the border.

43. With the 29 April declaration by the Government of the Sudan of a State of Emergency along the Sudan-South Sudan border and subsequent threats to traders, nomads currently in South Sudan expressed concern about their return journey to the Sudan, which could create further problems at the border.

VI. Implementation of the Mission's mandate

44. The UNMISS-Government of the Republic of South Sudan mechanism on mandate implementation, co-chaired by Vice-President Riek Machar Teny and my Special Representative, continued its biweekly meetings to discuss developments in mandated areas, including security, peacebuilding, and constitution-making. The mechanism serves as a vital forum for my Special Representative to raise matters of concern with the Government of the Republic of South Sudan, such as human rights violations reported in the course of civilian disarmament; for the Government to share views with the Mission; and for the Mission to consult with the host country on its benchmarks and mandate implementation on the peacebuilding support plan. In addition, my Special Representative held regular meetings with President Salva Kiir Mayardit and State Governors, and conducted biweekly briefings with the diplomatic community.

Mission transition from start-up to consolidation

45. As requested by the Security Council in its resolution 1996 (2011), UNMISS, in consultation with the United Nations country team, United Nations Headquarters and the Government of the Republic of South Sudan, identified a set of benchmarks with corresponding indicators to measure progress towards implementation of the Mission's mandate (see annex). The benchmarks also correspond with the pillar objectives of the South Sudan Development Plan. The Mission will report regularly on progress towards achieving the benchmarks, taking into account ongoing developments in the region, the consequences of the oil shutdown and, where necessary, and in consultation with United Nations Headquarters and the Government of the Republic of South Sudan, adjust the benchmarks and indicators to ensure that they remain realistic and achievable.

46. The Mission's civilian component currently has 811 international staff, 1,400 national staff and 305 United Nations Volunteers, with vacancy rates of 21 per cent, 30 per cent and 40 per cent, respectively.

47. As at 14 June 2012, the strength of the Mission's military component stood at 5,638 out of the 7,000 authorized troops, comprising 3,796 infantry troops, 1,551 enablers and 291 staff officers and military liaison officers. The Mission expects to reach its mandated troop ceiling of 7,000 by October 2012. The strength of the United Nations police component stands at 493 personnel from 36 countries, out of the 900 authorized police advisers, also as at 14 June. Further United Nations police increases are dependent upon the construction of county support bases and other infrastructure, and on the absorption capacity of the Government of the Republic of South Sudan to receive United Nations support.

48. The planned establishment this financial year of 19 county support bases has been challenging, owing to difficulties in receiving resources liquidated by UNMIS from the Sudan and from the backlogged Kenyan port of Mombasa, as well as delays in the deployment of the required engineering units. Eight sites are currently operational and seven at various stages of construction, with all to be completed by the end of the year. Funding was secured for 25 "development portals" attached to the county support bases, to be constructed by UNDP and supported by UNMISS. The portals comprise community development centres and office facilities for county government and will enable co-location of United Nations staff with county officials, as well as providing a platform for development work for the United Nations agencies and other development partners. UNMISS has also constructed five new company operating bases for military deployment, with an additional two expected to be completed in July and military deployment to be completed by August 2012. The Mission is also supporting construction of three transitional facilities for disarmament, demobilization and reintegration.

Military component

49. An infantry battalion from Rwanda and an engineering company from Japan have been inducted into the Mission. The Bangladesh battalion and level-2 hospital were repatriated in early-May, upon being replaced by contingents from Rwanda and Cambodia, respectively. Cambodia also deployed a 70-person military police company. The Indian and Kenyan battalions completed internal redeployments to their respective areas of responsibility. The force continues to have four infantry battalions against the authorized six. Advance party deployments of battalions from Mongolia and Nepal, which were delayed owing to lack of engineering capacity to prepare team sites and air strikes in the border region, are currently in the mission area preparing for the deployment of the balance of the two battalions by the end of July 2012. The force will remain at interim operational capability from July to December 2012, or until such time as the light field engineers from Nepal, Mongolia and Rwanda are each replaced by a fourth rifle company. The shortfall in reaching the 7,000 authorized troops is greatest in infantry battalions, which at 3,796 are at 76.6 per cent of total authorized.

50. In terms of capacity voids, the continued absence of military helicopters is of great concern. Lack of military helicopters severely restricts quick response capability and extraction capacity during crises. Given the long rainy seasons in South Sudan, an assessment will also be undertaken to determine if the Mission's mobility could be enhanced to navigate the river systems in South Sudan.

Police component

51. United Nations police remain stationed in all state capitals and in 23 counties. Deployment was slowed owing to accommodation constraints and limited engineering capacity. Mandated activities, carried out through co-location, focused on capacity-building for the South Sudan Police Service.

52. United Nations police and UNDP continued to support the screening and registration of South Sudan Police Service and corrections officers across the country, with 37,500 South Sudan Police Service registered as of 14 June. Registration, originally expected to be completed in March, is behind schedule owing to logistical constraints, the onset of the rainy season, and redirection of

Government priorities in response to the border conflict. United Nations police in coordination with UNDP and with support from several donors continued to support South Sudan Police Service training, including in English language literacy, bringing the total number of trained personnel to 5,097 as at 14 June. Infrastructure development at the Dr. John Garang Unified Training Centre (Rajaf) is also in progress.

53. In strengthening the South Sudan Police Service oversight mechanism and in support of South Sudan Police Service reform, United Nations police assisted in amending the organizational structure of the Police Services. The South Sudan Police Service and United Nations police are also jointly working to introduce Diplomatic and Border Police Units.

Protection of civilians

54. Although the level of inter-communal violence has decreased since my previous report, the civilian population, particularly women and children, have continued to be attacked during armed conflict and violence in South Sudan. There have also been civilian casualties from the recent border clashes between South Sudan and the Sudan.

55. There were significant concerns that civilians would be harmed in the course of the disarmament process in Jonglei, considering that previous disarmament exercises led to serious armed clashes and civilian loss of life. The risk of violence remains high as the disarmament of the youth militia is not complete and UNMISS will continue to monitor the Government of the Republic of South Sudan response to those violations that it has brought to the Government's attention. In accordance with the due diligence policy, apart from facilitating the Government of the Republic of South Sudan sensitization campaign to encourage voluntary surrender of weapons, UNMISS provided no direct material or logistical support to the Government of the Republic of South Sudan for the civilian disarmament process.

56. The border clashes between South Sudan and the Sudan have also resulted in the death and injury of civilians. UNMISS monitored indiscriminate aerial attacks on South Sudan, which were reported to the Security Council.

57. UNMISS developed its protection of civilians strategy based on a nationwide risk assessment and extensive consultations. A protection of civilians working group meets regularly to coordinate implementation of the Mission's protection mandate. UNMISS also developed a training plan to roll out the Department of Peacekeeping Operations/Department of Field Support protection of civilians training modules, customized to the South Sudan context. The UNMISS early warning and early response strategy has been developed and interim operating capability is expected to be in place by the summer of 2012. However, critical gaps in resources and capabilities have constrained implementation of the UNMISS protection mandate.

58. UNMISS and the Protection Cluster intensified coordination, sharing information and jointly developing contingencies related to displacement and return of South Sudanese from the Sudan. At the request of the Humanitarian Coordinator, UNMISS helped to promote the civilian character of refugee camps and settlements in the border States by providing force protection and patrolling.

Child protection

59. During the reporting period, 154 children who were enlisted in the SPLA were released and returned to their families. Out of the 91 children who were released during the previous reporting period, 71 were enrolled in reintegration programmes supported by UNICEF through NGOs. Registration of separated children, the majority of whom reside in Yida refugee camp, continued, bringing the total number of registered separated children to 2,044. UNMISS and UNICEF worked with authorities in Jonglei to register and reunify 170 children with their families.

60. On 12 March, a revised Action Plan between the SPLA and the United Nations on the release of all children associated with armed forces in South Sudan was signed in the presence of my Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict, Radhika Coomaraswamy. The Action Plan obligates the Government of the Republic of South Sudan to ensure that there are no children within the ranks of the SPLA. Consequently, the SPLA issued four Military Command Orders, instructing a halt to child recruitment, release of enrolled children and evacuation of schools occupied by SPLA soldiers. The SPLA allowed UNMISS, UNICEF and the South Sudan Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Commission access to all military barracks in South Sudan for verification.

61. In relation to the recent border incidents, mobilization of new recruits has occurred, but so far, UNMISS has not been able to confirm reports of recruitment of children in some of the regional SPLA garrisons.

Sexual violence

62. Allegations of sexual violence by security forces were reported in the context of civilian disarmament. Given the associated stigmatization, it is likely that such incidents are underreported. Actions were taken to arrest and try perpetrators of sexual violence in at least one case related to civilian disarmament. In Bor County, two SPLA soldiers were found guilty of rape, and await approval of sentencing by the SPLA Chief of Staff. Such actions are essential to send a strong message to security forces that sexual violence will not be tolerated.

63. In April, UNMISS appointed its first Women Protection Adviser to lead its response to conflict-related sexual violence, in line with Security Council resolution 1888 (2009) on Women, Peace and Security. Additional Women Protection Advisers will be appointed at the state and community levels. This work will include monitoring, analyses, reporting and response to conflict-related sexual violence in line with the implementation of the monitoring analysis and reporting arrangements under Security Council resolution 1960 (2010). Women Protection Advisers will work closely with the United Nations country team to improve survivors' access and referral to critical health services.

Rule of law

64. Lack of capacity in the rule of law sector — human, material and financial, particularly outside state capitals — remains a significant challenge. In terms of strengthening national capacity, however, the appointment of a Prisons Inspector indicated a significant development towards the establishment of an accountable and transparent prisons system. UNMISS focused on capacity development and provision of technical and logistical support to justice and prison institutions,

particularly in the States. Continuing a programme to develop trainers for the National Prisons Service, 15 tutors trained by UNMISS have themselves trained 35 prison managers at the Prisons Training Academy in Juba. UNMISS also established a corrections mobile training team and provided technical assistance to the Prisons Service Working Group that developed prison regulations. UNMISS, in partnership with UNDP, continued efforts to implement the Rule of Law Indicators Project to assess the efficacy of law enforcement, judicial and corrections institutions and establish a baseline against which progress can be assessed. Technical support to the SPLA Directorate for Military Justice is expected to advance with the recent arrival of the UNMISS Military Justice Section Chief. UNDP has been working on providing capacity development to the Judiciary and Ministry of Justice, improving access to justice, and supporting efforts related to customary law.

65. As an initial step in assisting the Government of the Republic of South Sudan to end prolonged, arbitrary detention, UNMISS conducted a pilot project to map the detained population in selected prisons and police stations in Juba and Torit. UNMISS is also mentoring and training Court Liaison and Probation Officers to address prolonged and arbitrary detention by making timely interventions with relevant criminal justice institutions.

Human rights

66. UNMISS continued providing technical assistance to the South Sudan Human Rights Commission. On 13 June, the Commission, with UNMISS support, launched its first three-year strategic development plan. However, Government of the Republic of South Sudan austerity measures, resulting in an over 50 per cent budgetary cut, have already limited the capacity of the South Sudan Human Rights Commission to operate, particularly outside the capital. UNMISS supported the Government of the Republic of South Sudan preparation of legislation on treaty ratification, and in collaboration with the South Sudan Human Rights Commission, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the National Legislative Assembly, conducted workshops with the Government on the ratification process regarding international human rights treaties.

67. Denial of access to persons detained by SPLA has continued, although it has marginally improved over the last four months, particularly in Jonglei, where SPLA commanders gave UNMISS assurances of cooperation. In Unity, UNMISS continues to investigate the detention of up to 20 Sudanese nationals, primarily of Darfurian and Misseriya origin, by the SPLA, and the disappearance of three Darfurians in mid-March. SPLA officials have not provided any confirmation of those detentions despite repeated demarches by the Mission. In Upper Nile, UNMISS has repeatedly attempted to visit nine Sudan People's Liberation Movement for Democratic Change political detainees reportedly in SPLA custody, but the SPLA has denied access, stating that the men are not in custody. The UNMISS national staff member arrested by SPLA Military Intelligence on 26 February was released in mid-May.

68. The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Navi Pillay, made her first visit to South Sudan from 8 to 12 May, where she met President Salva Kiir Mayardit and Government of the Republic of South Sudan officials to discuss protection of civilians and human rights issues, including inter-communal violence in Jonglei.

Disarmament, demobilization and reintegration

69. On 28 March, the Chair of the Republic of South Sudan Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Commission announced the postponement of the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme, which was scheduled to start on 1 April. Preparations continue for the launch of a pilot phase in three transitional facilities, while a new start date is being determined. The national disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme document was finalized on 20 April, outlining an eight-year process of downsizing the security forces by 150,000 persons, with a $1.2 billion total budget. While $381 million is expected from donor funding, resource mobilization efforts have not begun. Meanwhile, the Ministry of Defence finalized the criteria for the selection of candidates who are to be admitted into the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process. However, there is also concern that donors will be unwilling to support disarmament, demobilization and reintegration if they perceive that the Government is simultaneously conducting the mobilization of combatants.

70. UNMISS and UNDP are working closely to support the Republic of South Sudan Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Commission in the design of a realistic operational plan that accounts for the impact of austerity measures and shortage of Government of the Republic of South Sudan revenue due to the oil pipeline shutdown. Concerns remain over support to the Commission in implementing the reintegration component of the programme due to the lack of funding.

Security sector reform

71. In the area of security sector reform, UNMISS continues to support the development of national security institutions and policies through strategic advice at the Ministerial level. As a result of UNMISS and other partners' advocacy and consultation efforts, the Government of the Republic of South Sudan decided to establish an Executive Secretariat to the National Security Council. This significant step is a precursor to the drafting of a national security policy, with the assistance of UNMISS and other international partners.

72. With the objective of strengthening the overall national security architecture, UNMISS is supporting state security committees through technical advisory and outreach efforts at the state level. UNMISS is also supporting state security committees in three States. Human resource eligibility requirements and extremely limited national professional capacity in the States limits the ability of UNMISS to deploy appropriate experts to all 10 States.

73. UNMISS delivered technical advice to Parliamentary Committees, the National Independent Human Rights Commission, the Public Grievances Chamber, and civil society organizations to further develop their oversight and governance capacity, and facilitating coordination among these stakeholders. UNMISS also provided training in security sector governance and oversight for SPLA and South Sudan Police Service senior officers. Working closely with the Bureau for Community Security and Small Arms Control and the Ministry of Interior, UNMISS has given technical support to the small arms control legislation process.

Mine action

74. During the reporting period, the United Nations Mine Action Coordination Centre (UNMACC) released a total of 1,138,098 m^2 of land in 20 affected communities; destroyed 283 anti-personnel and 45 anti-tank mines, 32,716 items of small arms ammunition and 3,898 items of unexploded ordnance. Forty-two teams of mines and explosive remnants of war clearance operated in eight States. UNMACC supported UNMISS Military Liaison Officers to investigate bomb sites linked to alleged aerial bombardments in Unity State and continued to open routes suspected of being re-mined by rebel militia groups. A further 13 teams conducted mine risk education in five States, reaching out to 30,016 civilians.

Peacebuilding Support Plan

75. Pursuant to paragraph 18 of Security Council resolution 1996 (2011), the United Nations South Sudan Peacebuilding Support Plan was finalized, with endorsement by the Government, and in consultation with partners. As requested by the Government, the Peacebuilding Support Plan focuses on key peacebuilding priorities extracted from the South Sudan Development Plan, as well as political transition processes stipulated in the 2011 Transitional Constitution, clarifying the roles of UNMISS, the United Nations country team and partners in supporting implementation. Also at the request of the Government, the Peacebuilding Support Plan organizes United Nations engagement around the five "Peacebuilding and State-building Goals" agreed in Busan late in 2011 as part of the New Deal for International Engagement in Fragile States, for which South Sudan is a self-nominated pilot country. Of the 43 peacebuilding priorities included in the Peacebuilding Support Plan, 15 priority deliverables were identified for rapid joint implementation by UNMISS and the United Nations country team. The final draft provides further analysis of the impact of the current fiscal environment and implications of ongoing tensions between the Governments of the Sudan and South Sudan. These dynamics intensified while the Peacebuilding Support Plan was prepared and are likely to impact the pace of implementation.

76. During May, UNMISS and the United Nations country team produced a costed Operational Plan for the Peacebuilding Support Plan, with technical assistance from the Peacebuilding Support Office. The Operational Plan details steps required to achieve the 15 priority deliverables and outlines a division of labour between the United Nations country team and UNMISS. It also analyses risks related to the current austerity period and possible deterioration of the security situation, outlining elements of the Peacebuilding Support Plan which are unlikely to be severely impacted by austerity and the security context and therefore can continue. On 1 May, I approved the eligibility of South Sudan for access to the Peacebuilding and Recovery Facility of the Peacebuilding Fund.

VII. Humanitarian situation, recovery, development and return

Humanitarian developments

77. The humanitarian situation deteriorated owing to heightened insecurity along the Sudan-South Sudan border, the conflict in the Sudan's Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile States, the inter-communal violence and increasing food insecurity. During the border fighting in March and April, more than 20,000 people were

displaced. In Western Bahr el Ghazal, Northern Bahr el Ghazal and part of Unity States people are still displaced. In addition, more than 110,000 people fled fighting in the Sudan's Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile States, becoming refugees in Upper Nile and Unity States. Humanitarian partners continued to provide life-saving assistance to 110,000 people displaced from the Abyei area in May 2011, as well as 170,000 people affected by inter-communal violence in Jonglei. According to reports by local authorities and assessment teams, there were 93 conflict-related incidents with a humanitarian impact in the reporting period. In these incidents, about 77,000 people, including those displaced along the border, were newly displaced and more than 100 people killed. The States with the major number of incidents and displacement include Unity, Warrap, Lakes and Jonglei.

78. Food insecurity remains one of the most serious threats to the new State. Before the shut-down of oil production, assessments showed that 4.7 million people, close to half the population, would be food insecure during 2012. This number is likely to rise if austerity persists. Border closures, deteriorating terms of trade, and inflation have driven the price of basic commodities and foodstuffs up by 100-200 per cent. In some border areas the increase has been reported up to 300 per cent for some commodities. Malnutrition has increased sharply. In five States, rates are above emergency thresholds. Humanitarian agencies pre-positioned seven emergency pipelines, including food in hundreds of locations before the onset of the rainy season, during which up to 70 per cent of the countryside is inaccessible.

79. Interference by SPLA and other state authorities in humanitarian activities continued, with 21 incidents reported between March and May, including obstruction of movement and assault of staff. Incidents ranged from theft and commandeering of vehicles, harassment at checkpoints, occupation of schools and clinics to the beating of humanitarian staff.

Recovery and development

80. The introduction of austerity measures is expected to delay implementation of the South Sudan Development Plan. To ensure that priorities are supported, the Government requested international partners to focus on front line service delivery in health, education, water and sanitation, reinforce core government functions and promote better efficiency in the use of resources. United Nations agencies, funds and programmes have prioritized critical programmes in the recently adopted United Nations Development Assistance Framework. The United Nations country team is continuing to help build necessary capacity within the Government, even in the current context. Under the IGAD Regional Capacity Enhancement Initiative, supported by UNDP, the Governments of Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda have deployed more than 160 civil service support officers throughout South Sudan to work within Government structures. UNDP and UNFPA have also deployed 138 experienced United Nations Volunteers into national and state structures, resulting in a combined total of more than 300 rapid capacity surge personnel embedded in government structures.

81. Implementation of quick impact projects was accelerated. In partnership with UNICEF, schools affected by inter-communal conflict are being rehabilitated in Jonglei. In partnership with UN-HABITAT, piped water systems are being constructed in three conflict-affected counties in Jonglei and one county in Warrap which absorbed displaced Abyei residents.

Return and reintegration

82. The status of South Sudanese people in the Sudan is a major concern, and the United Nations continuously advocated for movement of returnees to be carried out in a safe, orderly and dignified manner. The 8 April deadline set by the Government of the Sudan for South Sudanese in the Sudan to regularize their residency status passed without a new agreement between the two countries on modalities for return. At the end of April, the Governor of White Nile State announced that the estimated 12,000-15,000 South Sudanese in the Sudan's Kosti would have to leave by early May. As South Sudan's transit sites in Renk, Upper Nile, were already at full capacity, it was agreed that the group would be moved to Juba and Malakal by air from Khartoum. The airlift, organized by the International Organization for Migration and supported by the Governments of the Sudan and South Sudan, started on 14 May, carrying between 300 and 1,000 people daily. Upon arrival in Juba, returnees have been offered temporary accommodation until they are able to proceed to their final place of settlement.

83. The humanitarian airlift of returnees formerly stranded in Kosti, the Sudan, was completed on 7 June after 24 days of flights. In the course of the operation, 11,840 people were flown from Khartoum to Juba on 79 flights. Aid agencies have continued providing assistance to the newly arrived returnees at the National Teacher Training Institute transit site outside Juba, where just over 3,000 returnees continue to be located, while others have joined their relatives in Juba or have been assisted with onward transportation.

VIII. Cross-cutting issues in the Mission

Public information

84. Following bombardments in Unity State, some South Sudanese authorities and communities criticized UNMISS for not responding adequately to protect civilians. Significant outreach was required to explain that the UNMISS protection mandate exists within South Sudan and does not include protection of territory or borders, nor protection against aerial bombardment. Extensive efforts were made with media, government, parliamentarians, civil society and religious leaders at state and national levels to disseminate information on the UNMISS mandate, statements made by the United Nations and international community condemning indiscriminate attacks against civilians at the border, and the recently adopted Security Council resolution 2046 (2012) calling for cessation of hostilities and resumption of negotiations between the two countries. These efforts have had a noticeable impact.

85. In Jonglei, UNMISS conducted outreach on the role of the Mission and assisted the Government of the Republic of South Sudan in sensitization efforts. Radio Miraya served as a platform for discussion on the peace process and aired UNMISS messages on protection of civilians and interviews and round-table discussions with stakeholders, highlighting the protection responsibility of the Government.

Implementation of the review of civilian capacities in the aftermath of conflict

86. Over 200 participants have benefited from the first phase of the National Staff Capacity-Building Programme, and the second phase has commenced, with 100 national staff undergoing certification programmes provided by the Ugandan Management Institute in Management and Administration, in Entebbe. It is expected that 120 national staff will undertake additional certification programmes over the next two to three months.

Conduct and discipline

87. UNMISS conduct and discipline efforts included policy drafting, technical guidance to managers, and prevention activities. Ongoing sensitization of UNMISS civilian and military supervisors and managers on their duties and obligations pursuant to ST/SGB/2005/20 (Prevention of workplace harassment, sexual harassment and abuse of authority) and ST/SGB/2008/5 (Prohibition of discrimination, harassment, including sexual harassment, and abuse of authority) is being conducted.

Gender

88. UNMISS helped to sensitize communities on girls' education and on harmful traditional practices and beliefs, including forced and early marriages, in line with Security Council resolution 1325 (2000). UNMISS and UN-Women provided technical support to the Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare to reactivate the Gender Coordination Forum in Juba and UNMISS trained members of the Women Community Peace Dialogue Forum, which organized peace initiatives in Jonglei, focusing on early warning. UNMISS also conducted training sessions on gender-based violence for South Sudanese authorities and legislators. More than 140 UNMISS personnel were trained on gender mainstreaming.

89. On International Women's Day, UNMISS supported the Government in organizing celebrations in all States in South Sudan under the theme, "Empowering rural women in ending hunger and working together to end violence".

HIV/AIDS

90. The HIV epidemic in South Sudan is categorized as a generalized low epidemic, with a prevalence rate of 3.06 per cent at the end of 2011. In line with Security Council resolution 1983 (2011), an HIV/AIDS Task Force, comprised of UNMISS, UNAIDS, the South Sudan HIV/AIDS Commission, and Government of the Republic of South Sudan Organized Forces was established to support implementation of HIV/AIDS capacity-building within UNMISS and the Government. Voluntary confidential counselling and testing services were provided to 2,069 (2,027 males and 42 females) SPLA soldiers and civilians throughout South Sudan. The Mission also graduated 53 HIV/AIDS peer educators.

Staff security

91. The escalation in hostilities with the Sudan has also impacted the safety, security and well-being of United Nations personnel, operations and assets in northern border States, particularly in Bentiu town and Unity State. Enhanced security mitigation measures were followed and United Nations personnel have not been harmed, although the 15 April bombing in Mayom caused severe collateral

damage to a United Nations county support base. In mid-April non-essential United Nations personnel from Bentiu were relocated for several weeks.

92. Two UNMISS security personnel working in Northern Bahr el Ghazal were freed in mid-May after nearly 3 months of detention in Darfur since 24 February. On 28 April four demining personnel (1 United Nations staff member, 2 United Nations-contracted personnel and 1 international non-governmental organization staff) went missing in northern Unity State. They were taken to Khartoum by the Sudanese Armed Forces and held for three weeks before being released. Additionally, two international non-governmental organization staff were detained by militia groups on 27 April in Upper Nile, taken to Kosti, the Sudan, and released in mid-May.

Financial aspects

93. The General Assembly, in its resolution 66/243, appropriated the amount of $839,490,000 for the maintenance of the Mission for the period from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013. As at 19 June 2012, unpaid assessed contributions to the UNMISS Special Account amount to $62.5 million. Total outstanding assessed contributions for all peacekeeping operations at the same date amount to $1,343.9 million. As at 19 June 2012, reimbursement of Governments of troop-contributing countries for troop and contingent-owned equipment costs has been made for the period to 31 January 2011 and 31 December 2011, respectively, in accordance with the quarterly payment schedule.

Observations and recommendations

94. On the eve of South Sudan's first anniversary, a stock-taking of the last 12 months reveals some important progress as described in the present and my two previous reports. However, sustained advancement of the Government state-building and capacity development priorities has encountered significant challenges, and the Government has faced multiple crises on the security, economic and humanitarian fronts. The looming economic crisis following the shutdown of oil production and loss of 98 per cent of the nation's income; the major security and protection challenges emanating from the hostilities at the border with the Sudan, inter-communal tension, and activities of rebel militia groups; as well as the unfolding food security crisis and an impending crisis related to the closure of the border with the Sudan and return of South Sudanese from the Sudan are expected to continue to impede progress in the coming months.

95. The impact of the loss of Government revenue is not limited to Juba or the few urban centres alone. Most South Sudanese live in remote areas outside the monetized economy, yet are heavily affected by fluctuations in grain and livestock prices. The growth of a parallel market is a major concern, resulting in inflation and unavailability of food. Shortages of basic commodities are affecting urban markets and fuel shortages are affecting the general population. Prudent measures by the Government of the Republic of South Sudan are urgently required to address these potentially devastating developments.

96. The escalation of hostilities at the border and the forfeiture of oil revenue also have implications for the Government's reform agenda, in particular security sector reform and disarmament, demobilization and rehabilitation. Yet Government of the Republic of South Sudan officials maintain that reforming and right-sizing the

security and defence forces still represents a top priority. To make progress in this priority area, the Government of the Republic of South Sudan must take steps to halt all recruitment and mobilization efforts and the Government and UNMISS must complete preparations for a disarmament, demobilization and reintegration pilot phase, as well as address shortcomings in reintegration planning and resource mobilization. In spite of economic and security challenges, the Government must accelerate its effort to strengthen and reform the security and justice sectors and realize an important measure of rule of law.

97. Inclusive and consultative constitution-making is an essential aspect of state-building and establishment of a new democratic nation should not wait for the resolution of the current crises. The National Constitutional Review Commission is nearly halfway into its one-year lifespan, but has yet to become operational. Similarly, the Elections Law needs to be passed, the National Elections Commission should be established, and implementation of anti-corruption measures must continue, in order to ensure progress on key political milestones. The Government must continue its commitment to maintain 25 per cent representation of women in all decision-making forums and at all levels of public service.

98. The Government has taken commendable measures to break the vicious cycle of inter-communal violence in Jonglei, through the All Jonglei Peace Conference and the deployment of additional security forces. In its first two months, the civilian disarmament process has been undertaken in a relatively peaceful and orderly manner. However, there have been worrying patterns of increased human rights violations in some areas and, with the onset of the rainy season and continued incidents of inter-communal cattle raiding, there is a risk of a resurgence of violence, particularly if the disarmament process is half-completed and security arrangements to protect disarmed communities remain inadequate. I commend the Government for its commitment to address all reported abuses during this important process. It is also critical that the Government of the Republic of South Sudan act to provide security in and between communities that feel vulnerable as a consequence of disarmament. To ensure protection of disarmed communities, the civilian disarmament process also should be underpinned by sustained inter-commmunal reconciliation efforts, including implementation of decisions reached, delivery of peace dividends, awareness-raising to transform the mindset of youth in cattle camps who believe that security lies in the possession of guns, and establishment of effective rule of law and state authority.

99. Accountability is also necessary for the restoration of peace and security. I urge the Government to implement the recommendations of the All Jonglei Peace Conference and of the UNMISS Human Rights Report on the attacks in Jonglei State from December 2011-February 2012, particularly the commencement of the Investigation Committee in an independent and impartial manner. I am particularly concerned about the reported incidents of rape, abductions, killings and other serious human rights violations in Jonglei and Eastern Equatoria. While I welcome the actions taken against perpetrators of human rights violations in the course of the civilian disarmament process thus far, it is important that the Government investigate all alleged civilian disarmament-related human rights cases that have been documented by UNMISS and prosecute those who stand accused of these crimes.

100. Most of the aforementioned challenges are linked in one way or another to the need to cultivate constructive relations with the Sudan. The establishment of good-neighbourly relations with Khartoum would make it easier for South Sudan to deal with its challenges more effectively. For the viability of South Sudan as a new and independent country, there is no better option than to reach a new partnership with its neighbour in the north. The constructive environment surrounding the preparations for a Presidential Summit, preceding the outbreak of hostilities at the border, showed that the two countries can change the dynamics in a more positive direction when there is political will to do so. South Sudan and the Sudan currently stand at a crossroads and this is a defining moment for both countries. To this end, it is critical that the two States comply with Security Council resolution 2046 (2012), establish the border monitoring mechanisms and reach agreements on outstanding issues as quickly as possible.

101. Notwithstanding the challenges South Sudan faces, its national priorities as well as the priorities of UNMISS as set out in Security Council resolution 1996 (2011) remain valid. Peace consolidation, protecting civilians, and capacity development remain urgent and increasingly pressing matters of concern for the new State. At the same time, the evolving situation requires regular stock-taking and adjustment of emphasis on key areas of support by UNMISS, and thus the timeline for certain activities — such as disarmament, demobilization and reintegration and security sector reform — have had to be adapted to new realities.

102. I am aware of the reservations of the Government of the Republic of South Sudan on the mandate of UNMISS as expressed in the letter of 12 June addressed to the Security Council by the Vice-President of South Sudan. However, in view of the security situation on the ground, the loss of civilian lives over the past year, and the capacity of the Government of the Republic of South Sudan to protect its citizens, I believe that the mandate of UNMISS should continue to remain under Chapter VII of the Charter in order to retain the ability of the United Nations to offer impartial assistance to the Government of the Republic of South Sudan to protect its citizens as done during the Jonglei crisis. Accordingly, I recommend the extension of the mandate of UNMISS by one year under the existing terms, until 8 July 2013.

103. While the UNMISS mandated areas of responsibility would remain unchanged for its renewed term, a reassessment of the Mission's resource capacity would be carried out. Lessons learned from the past year of operations indicate that appropriately enabled mobility is critical for UNMISS to implement its protection and peace consolidation role. The population most at-risk and most unreached by state authority is also the population most inaccessible. All integrated components of UNMISS need to have access to as much of the country as possible throughout the year, yet the wet season makes road transit impossible in most of the country from April to November. While UNMISS continues to rely on civilian aviation assets, the Mission lacks military utility helicopters to support the carriage of dangerous goods and extractions of troops and staff during the outbreak of violence. The Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support of the Secretariat are working diligently to seek support of Member States vis-à-vis military helicopters. Considering that much of the country is connected by both large rivers and the shallower seasonal waterways, and that waterborne transport options are not available on the local market, I have also directed the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support to undertake an assessment to see whether mobility of the Mission can be enhanced by deploying

assets to navigate the river system of South Sudan. The outcome of this assessment would be presented to the Security Council in my next report on South Sudan.

104. I would like to conclude by expressing my appreciation for the dedicated service of my Special Representative for South Sudan, Hilde Frafjord Johnson, as well as for all military, police and civilian personnel serving in UNMISS. In addition, I would like to thank the entire United Nations country team and its partners in South Sudan, as well as Member States contributing troops and police to UNMISS.

Annex

Benchmarks for the progress of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan

Overview

1. The main role of UNMISS is to support the consolidation of peace and security and to help establish the conditions for development in the Republic of South Sudan, with a view to strengthening the capacity of the Government of the Republic of South Sudan to govern effectively and democratically. UNMISS will therefore measure the progress of its mandate for the first years based on the achievement of key political and security benchmarks in the country.

2. The purpose of the benchmarks is to identify specific, achievable and realistic targets against which the progress of UNMISS can be measured. These benchmarks were developed in consultation with the Government of the Republic of South Sudan. In its planning for the 2012-2013 period, UNMISS has focused on activities that will directly support the Government in the achievement of the five benchmarks set out below. Implementation may take place in a phased manner, in accordance with the country's own plans for meeting major political milestones. The benchmarks will be achieved once the Government has established effective state authority, held elections in accordance with the Constitution, and sufficiently developed the capacity of its rule of law and security institutions to a level where they can effectively maintain public order and protect the civilian population.

3. The Mission's support to the Government of the Republic of South Sudan will be provided in ways that seek to build up the capacity of the State, taking directly into account its development priorities. In this regard, the benchmarks also correspond with the pillar objectives elaborated in the South Sudan Development Plan. The Mission will regularly report on progress towards achieving the benchmarks, taking into account ongoing developments in the region and, where necessary, and in consultation with the Government of the Republic of South Sudan, recommend adjustments to the benchmarks and indicators to ensure that they remain realistic and achievable.

Benchmarks	*Indicators of achievement*
Benchmark I	
The Republic of South Sudan has developed sufficient capacity to prevent, mitigate and resolve conflicts and effectively carry out its responsibility to protect civilians.	(a) The incidence of large-scale armed violence in South Sudan is reduced consistently over time. (b) Early warning and early response mechanisms are functional and help identify threats to civilians. (c) Civilian casualties from armed conflict and violence are reduced. (d) Effective local and national mechanisms to mitigate and resolve conflicts have been developed, and the public perceives that the Government has this capacity. (e) Grave violations of child rights are reduced as a result of the monitoring and reporting mechanism and the implementation of the Action Plan by relevant parties (f) Relevant parties support monitoring and reporting mechanisms on cases of sexual violence in conflict and such conflict-related cases are reduced. (g) Cases of forced displacement of civilian populations are reduced. (h) Protection of civilians is being accepted as a key responsibility of the country's security forces and enforced by directives and command orders.
Benchmark II	
The Government of the Republic of South Sudan has laid the foundations, at the national and local levels, for governing effectively and democratically.	(a) By 2014, the new Constitution of the Republic of South Sudan is adopted and accepted as a basis for governance by all involved parties and it provides for women's representation. (b) There is demonstrable evidence of improved effectiveness of executive, legislative, and judicial state institutions at the national and state levels. (c) Free, fair and peaceful nationwide elections are held by 2015 and in accordance with the Constitution. (d) Reform agenda laid out by the Council of Ministers (including adoption of new Political Party Act and National Electoral Law, appointment of National Electoral Commission and National Constitutional Review Commission) is enacted by 2013 and implemented in a transparent manner by 2015.

Benchmarks	*Indicators of achievement*
	(e) The work of the Anti-Corruption Commission is visible and demonstrates effectiveness including use of its functions on investigations and prosecution as set out in paragraph 144 and in the Transitional Constitution.
	(f) The Government of the Republic of South Sudan implements the Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative workplan for two years, leading to Compliant Status qualification.
	(g) Independent media operates freely.
Benchmark III	
The capacity of the Government of the Republic of South Sudan security and the rule of law institutions to maintain public order and administer justice is strengthened.	(a) A national security strategy is developed and is consistent with international standards and the international obligations of South Sudan.
	(b) Government targets for "right-sizing" SPLA and other security services are met.
	(c) The disarmament and demobilization of former combatants, including all children are completed, reintegration is under way and Government of the Republic of South Sudan's partners are able to effectively continue with this process.
	(d) Legislation governing South Sudan Police Service operations, including mechanisms for ensuring police accountability, oversight, reliable and transparent registration, is adopted.
	(e) South Sudan Police Service services are deployed in all States and Counties and there is a demonstrable evidence of their growing effectiveness.
	(f) The South Sudan Police Service is integrated in regional mechanisms in order to promote cross-border cooperation.
	(g) The National Action Plan on implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on Women, Peace and Security is developed and implementation has begun.
	(h) There is evidence of growing effectiveness of the rule of law and justice institutions, including the prison system.
	(i) A military justice system, complementary to the civil justice system, is developed.

Benchmarks	*Indicators of achievement*
Benchmark IV	
The Government of the Republic of South Sudan monitors and prevents human rights violations.	(a) National legislation is aligned with international human rights standards. (b) A National Human Rights Action Plan is adopted and there is demonstrable evidence that the National Human Rights Commission meets the Paris Principles. (c) Human rights protocols to investigate alleged violations are developed and implemented at state and county levels. (d) Child recruitment and use by security institutions is prohibited and enforced by directives and command orders. (e) Mechanisms are in place to hold human rights perpetrators among Security Forces accountable. (f) Arbitrary and prolonged detention decreases significantly.
Benchmark V	
The Government of the Republic of South Sudan has laid a foundation for sustainable development in South Sudan.	(a) The South Sudan Development Plan is being implemented. (b) The United Nations Peacebuilding Support Plan in support of the Government of the Republic of South Sudan is being implemented. (c) The Government of the Republic of South Sudan enacts and follows a legally prescribed process for budget presentation, execution and audit. (d) The Government of the Republic of South Sudan consistently increases the budget allocation to investment in social and productive sectors. (e) Returnees are integrated into local communities.